

Patterson House (Washington Club)
15 Dupont Circle, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

HABS No. DC-270

HABS

WASH,

212 -

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PATTERSON HOUSE
(WASHINGTON CLUB)

HABS No. DC-270

WASH, 212-

Location: 15 Dupont Circle, N.W., Washington, D.C.;
on the northeast corner of Dupont Circle
and P Street. UTM: 18.322900.4308530

Present Owner: The Washington Club

Present Occupant: The Washington Club

Present Use: Private Club

Statement of
Significance: This structure is a McKim, Mead and White example of
neoclassicism in the decorative Italianate manner. The
white marble and glazed terra-cotta building is heavily
ornamented. The court, which breaks the south corner
of the polygonal plan, gives added light to the interior
and commands the approach of vehicular traffic around
Dupont Circle. [Floors as in HABS D. C. Catalog.]

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Lot and Square:

The building is located in Square 136, original lot 2.

B. Original and Subsequent Owners:

The following chain of title to the property shows the owners of
the present structure and of any known preceding structures on the
site:

1900 Deed March 30, 1900, recorded April 4, 1900 in
Liber 2490 folio 31

Anna Howell Stewart
To
Elinor Medill Patterson

"This Deed...Witnesseeth that Anna Howell Stewart (widow), of
the District of Columbia, party hereto of the first part,
for and in consideration of Eighty-three thousand four hun-
dred and six dollars...to her paid by Elinor Medill Patterson
of said District of Columbia, party hereto of the second
part...All of Original Lot...(2) in Square...(136)..."

1923 Deed March 17, 1923, recorded March 31, 1924 in
Liber 5192 folio 44

Elinor Medill Patterson, widow
To
Countess Eleanor Patterson Gizycka

"...in consideration of love and affection and the sum of Ten dollars...Together with all household furniture and effects of every character and description contained therein, with the exception of silver and goldplate..."

NOTE: Will of Eleanor Patterson was recorded February 9, 1949 in Will Book No. 385 folio 398, Registrar of Wills, District of Columbia. The will stated:

"I give, devise and bequeath to the American Red Cross, of Washington, District of Columbia, my real estate improved by premises No. 15 Dupont Circle in said City of Washington, now occupied by me as my home, and all the furnishings in said premises except my family portraits and silver ware absolutely and in fee simple..."

1951 Deed March 1, 1951, recorded March 7, 1951 in Liber 9421 folio 562.

The American National Red Cross
To
The Washington Club

"...Being the same property devised to grantor by Will of Eleanor Patterson, deceased (also known as Eleanor Medill Patterson and as Countess Eleanor Patterson Gizycka) by name and style of American Red Cross which is identical with the said The American National Red Cross. Said property being identical with 15 Dupont Circle, N.W...."

Source: Recorder of Deeds, Washington, D.C.

C. Date of Erection:

The building was begun in 1901 and completed in January 1903.

D. Building Permits:

The applications for the following building permits were filed by the architect, contractor or owner's agent and provide significant data:

No. 1905, June 10, 1901
Permit to build dwelling
Owner: R. W. Patterson

Architect: McKim, Mead and White
Builder: George A. Fuller Co.
Estimated cost: \$85,000.

No. 174, July 17, 1917

Permit to Repair or Reconstruct

Owner: Mrs. Robert W. Patterson

Architect: J. H. de Sibour

Contractor: William P. Lipscomb & Co.

"It is proposed to extend the present Wine Room out under the driveway a distance of 10'-0" by 12'-0" wide brick walls and reinforced concrete roof slab."

No. 177903, March 4, 1935

Permit to install elevator repair - changing D.C. to A.C. current

No. A 20984, June 13, 1951

Permit to Repair or Reconstruct

"Make alterations to have building conform to required egress regulations for use as club building. Provide new toilet room."

No. A 21711, July 3, 1951

Permit to install concrete stair to second floor

Source: Record Group 351, Records of the District of Columbia, Building Permits 1877-1949, Legislative and Natural Resources Branch, Civil Div., National Archives/Records Service, Washington, D.C.

E. Alterations and Additions:

To satisfy fire code regulations, a partition was constructed between the first floor foyer and the stairway to the bedroom floor.

A two story addition (with a dining room and foyer on the ground floor and a meeting room and a reception room on the second floor) was completed in 1956. The east wall windows of the original structure were closed and interior access doorways built for the addition.

F. Architect: McKim, Mead and White, New York City
Stanford White, partner in charge

Stanford White, the son of Richard Grant White, noted Shakespearean scholar, and of the former Alexina Mease, was born in New York City November 9, 1853. White was educated in private schools and graduated from the University of New York. He had shown considerable talent in drawing and water color, but he was persuaded by his friend, John La Farge, to study architecture instead.

From 1872 until 1878, White worked as a draftsman in the office of Gambrill & Richardson in Boston. While there he became friends with

Charles F. McKim, another apprentice in the office; and with Augustus St. Gaudens, who was working under La Farge on mural decorations for H. H. Richardson's Trinity Church, Boston.

White left the firm in 1878 to travel in Europe. He spent some time sketching buildings in the towns surrounding Paris. St. Gaudens and McKim joined him later for a trip through southern France.

After his return to New York in 1880, White entered into a partnership with McKim and William Rutherford Mead - forming the firm of McKim, Mead and White. Mead was considered the more businesslike of the partners; and "although he gave less of his time to actual designing...he often not only conceived the scheme which was the basis of the whole design, but gave timely criticism which had vital bearing upon the finished work." McKim was "a calm, deliberate scholar - shy, cautious...He built decidedly in the grand manner, even to the point of austerity." White on the other hand was "exuberant, restless, a skyrocket of vitality. He worked at terrific pressure and produced a great many buildings, which are graceful and charming rather than imposing, and often profusely ornamented." (Sketches and Designs by Stanford White, pp. 15-17.)

The above noted book contains a "List of Works of McKim, Mead & White, in Which Stanford White Took a Leading Part." Two Washington, D.C. residences are included: the Residence of Thomas Nelson Page, 1759 R Street, N.W. (1897); and the Residence of Mrs. E. M. Patterson, 15 Dupont Circle, N.W. (1903). Also on the list:

Residence of Robert Goelet, Newport, R.I. (1883)
Residence of Charles L. Tiffany, N.Y.C. (1884)
Residence of Joseph H. Choate, Stockbridge, Mass. (1887)
Century Club, N.Y.C. (1891)
Madison Square Garden, N.Y.C. (1891)
Metropolitan Club, N.Y.C. (1894)
New York University (1894)
Residence of John Jacob Astor, Rhinebeck, N.Y. (1898)
Residence of W.C. Whitney (interior), N.Y.C. (1900)
Cullum Memorial Hall, West Point, N.Y. (1898)
Knickerbocker Trust Co. (1904)
Lambs Club, N.Y.C. (1905)
Brook Club, N.Y.C. (1905)
Gorham Building, N.Y.C. (1906)
Tiffany & Co., N.Y.C. (1906)
Residence of James L. Breese, Southampton, L.I. (1906)
Residence of Payne Whitney, N.Y.C. (1906)

Stanford White was not interested in architectural design only. Besides planning "luxurious city and country homes in New York, Newport and the Berkshires, [he] designed furniture, and ransacked Europe for rugs, pictures, sculptures and hangings. He fashioned a railroad parlor-car and furnished James Gordon Bennett's yacht.

He designed pedestals for Saint-Gaudens, and MacMonies, picture frames for Dewing, magazine covers for The Century and Scribner's, gravestones, book and program covers, and exquisite jewelry." (Dictionary of American Biography, Vol XX.)

On June 25, 1906, while attending the summer opening of the Madison Square Gardens Roof, Stanford White was shot and killed by Harry Thaw, a jealous husband.

Sources: Charles Moore, The Life and Times of Charles Follen McKim, New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1929.

L.G. White, Sketches and Designs by Stanford White, New York: The Architectural Book Publishing Company, 1920.

Henry F. Withey and Elsie R. Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956.

Dumas Malone (ed.), Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XX, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1936.

The New York Times, "Thaw Murders Stanford White," 6-26-06, 1:5.

G. Known Plans, Drawings, Elevations, etc.:

Set of architectural drawings. Blue line prints. Scale 1/4" = 1'
McKim, Mead and White, Architects
New York Historical Society, NHi Roll #874
(see reproductions of ground and first floor plans)

H. Important Old Views:

Exterior photograph: view from southwest.
"Residence of R. G. Patterson, Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C.,
McKim, Mead & White, Architects."
The Architectural Record, Vol. XIII, no. 6 (June 1903), p. 493.

I. Residents:

1. City and telephone directories list the following tenants:

1904-1905	R. W. Patterson
1906	No listing
1907-1909	Robert W. Patterson
1910-1912	No listing
1913	Mrs. Robert W. Patterson
1914-1922	Mrs. Eleanor Patterson (widow of Robert)

1923 Mrs. Eleanor M. Patterson
1924 Mrs. Robert Patterson
1925 Countess Gizycka
1926 Mrs. Eleanor Schlesinger
1927-1930 Elmer Schlesinger
1931-1932 Emily Patterson (probably Eleanor)
1933-1935 Mrs. Eleanor Patterson, Publisher, The Washington Herald
1936-1949 Mrs. Eleanor M. Patterson
1950 Vacant
1951-1972 The Washington Club

2. Biographies of the residents:

Robert Wilson Patterson (November 30, 1850 - April 1, 1910), the son of Rev. Robert Wilson and Julie A. (Quigley) Patterson, was born in Chicago. He was graduated from Williams College in 1871. After attending law school for a while, Patterson left to join the editorial staff of the Presbyterian "Interior." In 1873 he accepted the position of telegraph editor for The Chicago Tribune. Patterson married Eleanor Medill, daughter of Joseph Medill, who was the editor of the Tribune. When Medill died in 1899, his son-in-law received the vacated position. The Pattersons had two children: Joseph Medill and Eleanor (Cissy) Medill.

Sources: The National Cyclopedia of American Biography, Vol. XX, New York: James T. White & Company, 1929, p. 53.

The New York Times, 4-2-10, 11:3 (obituary).

Mrs. Robert Patterson (died October 1935), formerly Eleanor Medill, was the daughter of Joseph Medill, editor of The Chicago Tribune.

Mrs. Patterson moved operations to Washington for the same reason that Mrs. Marshall Field, Mrs. Edward Walsh and Mrs. Levi Leiter were erecting pleasure places there...Washington was the one city in the East where any woman with money and talent could set up house-keeping and become an important hostess.
(Cissy Patterson, p. 16-17)

In 1893 she paid \$83,000 for a site on Dupont Circle, and by 1903 she had reputedly spent \$200,000 for what her daughter referred to as "the movie palace." (Cissy Patterson, p. 17)

Sources: Felicia Gizycka, "15 Dupont Circle - The Most Beautiful Palace of Them All", The Washingtonian Magazine, Vol. V, No. 11 (August 1970), pp. 46-49, 77-81.

Alice Albright Hoge, Cissy Patterson, New York: Random House, 1966.

Eleanor (Cissy) Medill Patterson (November 7, 1884 - July 24, 1948), the daughter of Robert W. and Eleanor M. Patterson, was christened Eleanor Josephine. The nickname "Cissy" was given by her older brother, Captain Joseph Medill Patterson, playwright, author, and publisher of The New York Daily News. For most of her life, Cissy was a well-known member of Washington society.

In 1902, her aunt, Mrs. Robert R. McCormick (formerly Katherine Medill), invited Cissy to Vienna where she was presented to the Austro-Hungarian court. During this trip, she met Count Josef Gizycka (of Blansko in the Moravian province of Austro-Hungary) in Paris. The Count followed her to St. Petersburg in 1903 and proposed. They were married April 14, 1904 at 15 Dupont Circle and left for Russia where their daughter, Felicia, was born in 1905. Matrimonial trouble in 1907 induced the Countess to flee to England. In 1908, Count Gizycka went to England, kidnapped the three year old Felicia, and took her back to Russia. Soon after, President Taft and prominent Russian citizens appealed to the Czar for Felicia's return. In August 1909, Felicia and her mother returned to the United States; and two years later the Countess filed for divorce, asking only for custody of the child. (The New York Times, 1-29-11)

Cissy married a New York corporate lawyer, Elmer Schlesinger, in 1925. During their marriage, the couple lived at 1010 5th Avenue, New York City and Port Washington, Long Island. (The New York Times, 2-21-29) After his death in 1929, Cissy had her name legally changed to Mrs. Eleanor Medill Patterson.

William Randolph Hearst, a friend, encouraged Cissy to take up journalism. Her first assignments included a series of hunting articles in 1920 from the Sawtooth Mountains in Idaho. In 1930, Hearst appointed her editor of The Washington Herald at \$10,000 per annum, at which time the introduction of her column, "Interesting but not True," extended the popularity of the newspaper. (Post Biographies of Famous Journalists)

Through inheritances and purchases, Cissy Patterson eventually accumulated stock in The Chicago Tribune and The New York Daily News. By 1942 she had acquired both The Washington Times and The Washington Herald from William R. Hearst. The two papers were combined to form the Times-Herald, which Constance McLaughlin Green in Washington Capital City (page 418) called "pro-Americanism, pro-Hearst, pro-Marian Davies, and anti-everything else."

Using Eleanor Gizycka as a pen name for articles and publications, Cissy wrote two novels: Glass Houses (1926), a revealing story based on real Washington personalities; and Fall Flight (1928), a story of a wealthy American girl in pre-World War I Russia.

After Elmer Schlesinger's death, Cissy often used 15 Dupont Circle for entertaining, but by 1944 she was spending less time with the

Times-Herald and her Washington residence. Her other homes, included: "Dower House" in Prince Georges County, Maryland, which was the original estate of Lord Baltimore and the hunting lodge of Lord Calvert; a summer house at Sands Point, Long Island; a winter home in Sarasota, Florida; a ranch near Jackson Hole, Wyoming; and an apartment at Carlton House, New York City. (The New York Times, 7-25-48)

Perhaps Cissy Patterson's well-known criticism of Washington society, her unusual dinner parties, and her numerous acquisitions of properties encouraged Robert S. Allen and Drew Pearson (her daughter's first husband) to write in Washington Merry-Go-Round:

Eleanor Medill Patterson, formerly Mrs. Eleanor Schlesinger, formerly Countess Gizycka, formerly Eleanor Medill Patterson, one of the most gifted women in Washington...has dissipated her gifts, for the most part, on trivialities.

With Eleanor Patterson's death, the estate, estimated at \$17 million, went to her family - except for the residence and its contents at 15 Dupont Circle, which were left to the American National Red Cross. (The Evening Star, 10-18-48)

Sources: John E. Drewery (ed.), Post Biographies of Famous Personalities, "Cissy is a Newspaper Lady" by Stanley Walker, New York: Random House, 1942, pp. 346-364.

Constance McLaughlin Green, Washington Capital City, 1879-1950, Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1963.

Alice Albright Hoge, Cissy Patterson, New York: Random House, 1966.

Robert S. Allen and Drew Pearson, Washington Merry-Go-Round, New York: Horace Liveright, Inc., 1931, pp. 10-15

Who's Who in The Nation's Capital 1938-1939, Washington, D.C.: Ransdell Incorporated, 1939.

The Evening Star, 10-18-48, B1:4.

The New York Times, 1-29-11, 3:5.

The New York Times, 2-21-29, 27:3 (Mr. Schlesinger's obituary).

The New York Times, 7-25-48, 49:1 (Mrs. Patterson's obituary).

Elmer Schlesinger (November 20, 1880 - February 20, 1929) was raised in Chicago. He graduated in 1901 from Harvard University where he received his law degree in 1903. He began practice with the Chicago law firm of May, Meyer, Austrian and Platt. Eventually, his organization ability led to the directorship of The Chicago Tribune, The New York News, Liberty Magazine and the Libby-Owens Glass Company. From June 1921 until September 1922, Schlesinger was the vice-president and general counsel of the U.S. Shipping Board in Washington, D.C. He later joined the New York law firm of Chadbourne, Stenchfield and Levy.

His marriage to Halle Schaffner in 1911 ended in divorce in 1922. They had two children, Halle and Elmer. On April 11, 1925 Schlesinger married Eleanor Patterson Gizycka.

Sources: Who Was Who in American 1897-1942: A Companion Volume to Who's Who in America, Vol. I, Chicago: The A. N. Marquis Publishing Company, 1942.

The New York Times, 2-21-29, 27:3 (obituary).

The Washington Club is a women's organization. Under the Articles of Incorporation, the club was established for:

...literary purposes and mutual improvement;...
That the particular business and objects of our said society are the establishment, maintenance and promotion of social intercourse; and to continue the work and organization heretofore inaugurated and carried on by the society incorporated by a certificate of incorporation recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia on the 8th day of May 1893, in Liber No. 6 folio 248 et seq. of the incorporation records of the District of Columbia.

Source: Incorporation Records of the District of Columbia. Recorded in Liber 28 folio 186 on March 25, 1911.

J. Events Connected with the Structure:

Soon after its completion in 1903, 15 Dupont Circle was the scene of many gala events:

During Mrs. [Robert] Patterson's years in the house, she maintained a staff of 10 to 15 servants. Until the war they wore full livery and the house was always the scene of parties.
(The Sunday Star, 1-2-55)

These lavish parties seem to have been prepared for the amusement of the "Three Graces of Washington:" Alice Lee Roosevelt, Countess Marquerite Cassini and Cissy Patterson.

The wedding between Cissy and Count Josef Cizycka in 1904 was considered a major event - with the Ambassadors, their wives, and staff of both Russia and Austria in attendance. Rev. Thomas S. Lee, Rector of St. Matthew's Church, performed the ceremony. (The Evening Star, 4-14-04; Cissy Patterson, p. 26)

The Patterson house was used by President and Mrs. Coolidge in 1927 while the White House was refurbished. "Although [Grace Coolidge] found the slantwise rooms 'a little cramped after the big square rooms at the White House' she liked them... 'Like most of the Washington houses this one was built with more thought given to the entertainment side of it than to the living side.' "(Grace Coolidge and Her Era, p. 218)

In June of 1927, Col. Charles A. Lindbergh was given a hero's welcome upon his return to the United States. He and his mother, Mrs. Evangeline Lodge Lindbergh, were guests of the Presidential family at 15 Dupont Circle. The house was besieged by cheering crowds for three days, demanding glimpses of the man who had flown the Atlantic. (The Evening Star, 6-10-27 and 6-12-27)

Alice Albright Hoge wrote in Cissy Patterson that the family rarely used the house after Mrs. Robert Patterson moved back to Chicago in 1923. However, Cissy, after her second husband's death in 1929, again opened the house to entertainment.

According to her friends, the thing she liked most was a good argument and she frequently had guests who were sure of getting into one. At one memorable party she had six or seven presidential candidates together. (The Sunday Star, 1-2-55)

With her death in 1948, Cissy's will made public her desire that 15 Dupont Circle and all its contents go to the American National Red Cross. In April of 1949, The Red Cross opened the house to the public auction of the personal belongings and effects of Cissy Patterson. (The Washington Daily News, 4-29-49) Soon after, the Red Cross offered the building and all its furnishings (not previously auctioned) for sale at \$700,000 (Times-Herald, 11-29-50); and in January of the following year the building was purchased by the Washington Club for approximately \$450,000. The sale included a "number of Gobelin, Flemish and French tapestries, authentic period chairs, sofas and tables." (The Evening Star, 1-12-51)

Sources: Alice Albright Hoge, Cissy Patterson, New York: Random House, 1966.

Ishbel Ross, Grace Coolidge and Her Era, New York: Dodd,
Mead & Company, 1962.

The Evening Star, 4-14-04, 5:5.

The Evening Star, 6-10-27, 1:1.

The Sunday Star, 6-12-27, 1:2.

The Evening Star, 1-12-51, 5:2.

The Sunday Star, 1-2-55, D4:1.

The Washington Daily News, 4-29-49, 21:1.

Times-Herald, 11-2-48, 1:2.

Times-Herald, 11-29-50, 23:4.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This detached structure is an example of the decorative neoclassic Italianate style.
2. Condition: very good aside from minor regulation firecode changes and remodeling. [Floors as in HABS D. C. Catalog.]

B. Exterior Description:

1. Overall dimensions: The four story plus basement structure measures 60'-0" from sidewalk to roof ridge. The 27'-5" wide entrance wall is set back from the street in an entrance court with obtuse angled, one bay, east and west elevations, respectively, 13'-7" and 14'-2" deep. The entrance wall supports a loggia, one bay (8'-0") in depth, with an 18'-6" wide back wall. The P Street and Dupont Circle, three bay elevations are both 39'-0". The northwest elevation is an obtuse angle whose sides measure 37'-8" from Dupont Circle and 11'-8". The east section of the 46'-0" north elevation is opened at ground level for service. The east wall is 83'-0", having a two story addition on P Street.
2. Foundations: concrete footings and slab.
3. Wall construction: The marble-faced structure has glazed terra cotta ornament. A low stone base supports the quoines and range-coursed walls of the ground floor. A Greek key string course acts as loggia balustrade and [second-floor] window sill. The second and third floors have quoins with tooled edges. The second-floor windows are separated by variegated marble panels in egg and dart mouldings with scroll bases and urn and festoon caps. Over each panel are additional panels each with a bib drape linked to fruit swags which flank escutcheons mounted over the second-floor window pediments. Fruit and ribbon pendants hang from the corner swags on the street elevations. The lowest of these fruit clusters is supported by a cherub. Each [third-floor] window has a scroll support and a scroll and flambeau mount, and is separated by variegated marble panels in egg and dart mouldings with mask and scroll bases. Over each of these panels is a winged figure which holds fruit swags attached with ribbon to the flambeau crowns over each window. The end figures on the street elevations stand on round panels with pendants. The [fourth floor] (attic) is the building entablature. The architrave is interrupted by a fruit and swag escutcheon which caps the central French door to the balcony over the loggia. The escutcheon swags are linked to winged figures over the side windows flanking the door. Above the fascia and talon architrave, the frieze has alternating windows and flat panels.

4. **Structure:** brick bearing walls.
5. **Mechanical:** The passenger elevator is by Otis, the lighting is electric and the heating is a gravity rise system.
6. **Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.:** The front entrance stoop is approached by three limestone risers. The Greek key string course, which acts as a cap for the loggia balustrade, supports two pairs of volute and swag, variegated marble columns on plinths with candelabra pilasters at each end. Candelabra pilasters flank the loggia doors. The loggia is capped by an Ionic entablature and an urn baluster balcony interrupted by panelled pedestals.
7. **Chimneys:** Visible from the street are seven, brick, panelled chimneys with limestone entablature caps (two over either street elevation, two at the north and one over the west end of the central facade).
8. **Openings:**
 - a. **Doorways and doors:** The black enameled double entrance door has four, pattered-centered panels per leaf and a marble crossette architrave with a cyma cornice capped by a scroll and fruit swag escutcheon. The escutcheon interrupts the Greek key string course. The garage entrance on Dupont Circle has metal double doors. Glazed doors, capped by escutcheon friezes, give access to the loggia.
 - b. **Windows:** All windows are double-hung. The ground floor windows have block sills and decorative wrought iron console grilles. The [second-floor] windows rest on the Greek key string course. Each window has an astragal, fascia and talon architrave, anthemion and palmette frieze and raked cyma pediment. The [third-floor] windows have fillet and block sills and astragal, fascia and talon, crossette architraves. The balcony door is flanked by narrow windows having a frieze within the talon architrave. The attic windows lack architraves.
9. **Roof:**
 - a. **Shape, covering:** The truncated-hip roof, originally red tile, is presently covered by asbestos shingle with copper flashing.
 - b. **Cornice, eaves:** dentils, acanthus modillions, corona and cyma.
 - c. **Dormers, cupolas, towers:** skylights over corridors below flat section of roof.

C. Interior Description:

1. Floor plans: On axis with the southwest entrance is the ground floor vestibule and the polygonal entrance hall. To the northeast of the entrance hall, the main stair alcove is approached by two marble risers and a platform. The vestibule is flanked by lavatories with access from the southeast reception room and the northwest library (billiard room). Behind and to the south of the main stair is a servants' stair, pantries and an entrance hall elevator. East of the reception room, and north of the entrance hall and library are service areas, with the kitchen at the northeast. (See plan.)

At the head of the main stair is the [second-floor] polygonal foyer. Arranged around the foyer are: the elevator, servants' stair and pantry at the east; the southeast dining room on P Street; and the loggia on the south. The loggia connects the dining room to the southwest drawing room (library) on Dupont Circle. To the north of the drawing room is the family stair, behind which is a conservatory. The conservatory connects the drawing room to the northeast ballroom. (See plan.)

The third floor contains bedroom suites arranged along a west-to-east corridor which terminates in a northeast foyer. The [fourth] floor has servants' quarters and storage rooms.

2. Spaces:

Entrance hall:

- a. Flooring: polished terrazzo with a white marble border.
- b. Walls: plaster.
- c. Ceiling: plaster painted white.
- d. Heating: The north wall corner chimney has a limestone mantel in the 15th century Italianate manner, 5'-0" wide by 7'-0" high with a firebox 4'-0" wide by 5'-6" high. Narrow candelabra pilasters flank the firebox and support large acanthus scrolls decorated with Pan and flambeau side panels. The scrolls support a cantilevered entablature shelf having a bead and talon architrave, a rinceau frieze of winged mermen interrupted by a central cartouche, and an egg and dart, and cyma cap.

Reception room:

- a. Flooring: carpeted.
- b. Baseboard: 6", wood.
- c. Walls: plaster.

- d. Cornice: acanthus leaf cove.
- e. Ceiling: plaster painted white.
- f. Doorways and doors: The decorative crossette architraves are capped by plaster, swag and festoon panels.
- g. Hardware: brass door handles.
- h. Heating: The west wall chimney has a white marble mantel (3'-6" high) in the Georgian manner, with consoles and a spray frieze.

Billiard room:

- a. Flooring: carpeted.
- b. Baseboard: 6", wood.
- c. Chairrail: 2'-6" high, wood fascia.
- d. Walls: wood, built-in north and east wall bookshelves (modern).
- e. Cornice: egg and dart with cyma.
- f. Ceiling: plaster painted white.
- g. Doorways and doors: crossette architraves.
- h. Hardware: brass door knobs.
- i. Heating: The south wall chimney has a plain, sand-cast mantel in the Georgian manner.

Main stair:

- a. Stairway: The stair alcove and entrance hall are separated by marble Ionic columns in antis. The main stair ascends east ten risers to a landing with a recessed wall fountain. The landing is flanked by two additional landings approached by single risers from which the stair ascends west nine risers on two flights to the first floor foyer. The stair risers, treads and closed stringer are marble. The cast iron banister has rinceau and cartouche panels; and the handrail is bound in red velvet.
- b. Fountain: Built into the east wall of the central landing is a grey and tan-veined, white marble fountain. On a large plinth is perched an eagle with spread wings supporting a shallow half-round bowl. The spigot projects from the mouth of a satyr's mask which is capped by a swan. Flanking candelabra pilasters with naive Ionic capitals and

rosette bases support a fascia architrave, plain frieze and an egg and dart cornice. Over the cornice is a recessed fan within an egg and dart moulding capped by acroterion.

Foyer:

- a. Flooring: herringbone parquetry.
- b. Baseboard: 6", wood with cyma cap.
- c. Walls: Between panelled wood pedestals and fluted composite pilasters are raised, corner-indented, plaster panels within beaded mouldings.
- d. Cornice: fascia, talon, egg and dart, acanthus brackets, astragal and talon.
- e. Ceiling: 12'-4" high, plaster painted white.

Dining room:

- a. Flooring: 6", curly maple, common.
- b. Baseboard: 5 1/2", wood with cyma cap.
- c. Dado: raised panels.
- d. Chairrail: 3'-0" high, wood, fascia and bead.
- e. Walls: raised plaster panels.
- f. Cornice: The full entablature has a fascia architrave, a plain frieze, and a dentil, egg and dart, and grooved bracket cornice.
- g. Ceiling: 12'-4" high, plaster painted white.
- h. Doorways and doors: crossette architraves.
- i. Windows: crossette architraves with recesses for drapes.
- j. Hardware: brass door handles.
- k. Lighting: There are six, three-light, mirror-backed, crystal sconces (the arms tied in the manner of a fleur-de-lis). There is one, twelve-light, crystal chandelier, having two brass tiers with crystal beads. Brass leaves spring from its inverted, heavy brass canopy which has a rosette block band and a crystal pendant at the base. Over the canopy, the arms of the crystal mid-section have lotus candle holders.

1. Heating: The east wall chimney has a cast iron firebox and a white marble mantel in the Georgian manner (7'-6" wide by 5'-6" high). Flanking stop-fluted Ionic columns support the central swag and ribbon frieze, broken forward over either column, and a denticulated shelf.

Library: (present drawing room: natural pine panelling. See photograph.)

- a. Flooring: herringbone parquetry.
- b. Baseboard: 7 1/2", cyma cap.
- c. Dado: flat panels within cyma mouldings.
- d. Chairrail: 3'-0" high, bead, cyma and fascia.
- e. Walls: flat panels within cyma mouldings.
- f. Cornice: The full entablature has an astragal, fascia and talon architrave; a strapwork, leaf and rosette, pulvinated frieze; and an egg and dart, plain modillion, talon and cyma cornice.
- g. Ceiling: 12'-4" high, plaster, painted white.
- h. Doorways and doors: Each leaf of the wood, double doors to the foyer and conservatory has three raised panels in egg and dart mouldings. The architrave has a bound oak leaf roll, with fascia, astragal and talon mouldings.
- i. Windows: The stiles and rails of the wall panelling form an architrave edged by astragal and recessed for drapes.
- j. Hardware: brass door handles.
- k. Heating: The north wall chimney has a marble hearth within an ogee moulding and a mantel in the Georgian manner (6'-6" wide by 5'-4" high). The white marble, egg and dart firebox surround is flanked by plinths with Ionic columns of yellow and pink marble. The full entablature shelf has an astragal architrave; an inlaid yellow and pink marble gouge frieze centered by a pink marble, rabbit and hound panel and broken forward over either column; and an egg and dart, and talon cap.

Ballroom: (see photograph)

- a. Flooring: oak, herringbone parquetry.
- b. Baseboard: 6", wood with cyma cap.
- c. Dado: raised, corner-indented panels within cyma and bead mouldings.

- d. Chairrail: 3'-0" high, wood, cyma and bead.
- e. Walls: raised, rosette-indented, plaster panels within cyma and bead mouldings. Flanking the chimney, doors and windows, and at the room corners, are fluted composite pilasters on raised panelled pedestals. The west wall is semielliptical, and the east chimney wall breaks forward 9".
- f. Balcony: Over the central west wall door is a serpentine orchestra balcony supported by acanthus and festoon consoles with guttae. The stringer has a bead and binding moulding, and the painted and gilded, cast iron banister has a center medallion flanked by rinceau and gouge panels and united by a wave pattern. The background wall has panelled pilasters.
- g. Cornice: The full entablature has a fascia and talon architrave; a running dog frieze with paired brackets above each pilaster and an egg and dart, acanthus bracket, astragal and talon cornice.
- h. Ceiling: 14'-6" high, plaster painted white within a slight border cove.
- i. Doorways and doors: The glazed double door to the foyer has a fascia architrave.
- j. Windows: The beaded architraves have recesses for drapes. The windows flanking the chimney wall have been closed by the east addition; the glazing is replaced with mirror panes.
- k. Hardware: brass door handles except at modern northeast fire escape door.
- l. Lighting: There are ten, three-light, brass-finished plaster sconces with flambeau arms knotted together and joined by ribbon and tassels. There are three, twelve-light crystal chandeliers, their tasseled bowls and crowns connected by prism drapes. The brass arms and frames are encrusted with crystal beads. Each chandelier has three concealed light tiers.
- m. Heating: The east wall chimney has a cast iron firebox with a musical cartouche, simulated lattice side panels and floral rinceau surround. The white marble mantel (6'-6" wide by 4'-0" high by 1'-0" deep) sits on baseboard plinths. The plinths support flanking panelled pilasters with floral festoon caps; a gouge frieze, interrupted by a central musical panel and broken forward over either pilaster and a cyma shelf. The gilded overmantel mirror, in the late 18th century English manner, has colonnettes which support a decorative muntin and a semicircular arch with flambeau spandrels.

D. Site:

1. Setting and orientation: The building faces southwest across the east end of Dupont Circle and is set on an irregularly shaped lot measuring 128'-10" on the south (P Street); 64'-6" on the southwest (Dupont Circle); 164'-9" on the northwest; and 132'9" on the east.
2. Enclosures: none.
3. Outbuildings: none. A two story wing of two composite bays was added by the Washington Club to the east building wall.
4. Walks: There is a semielliptical concrete entrance drive linking P Street and Dupont Circle. Both the drive and public sidewalk are edged by limestone curbing.
5. Landscaping: The public sidewalk is bordered by clipped hedges. At the west, the property has ivy, with spruce, magnolia grandiflora and oak.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This document, made from records donated December 1973 to the Historic American Buildings Survey by the Commission of Fine Arts, represents studies of prime, typical, diversified and sumptuous architecture erected primarily between the years 1890 and 1930, when American society and architecture were greatly influenced by the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. These studies, organized originally to be adapted to HABS format, were first published in 1973 as Massachusetts Avenue Architecture, Vol. 1, issued by the Commission of Fine Arts, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D. C., Charles H. Atherton, Secretary; Donald B. Myer, Asst. Secretary; Jeffrey R. Carson, Architectural Historian; Lynda L. Smith, Historian; and J. L. Sibley Jennings, Jr., Architect. Photographs were made for the Commission by Jack E. Boucher, Linwood, New Jersey; J. Alexander, Wheaton, Maryland; and the Commission of Fine Arts Staff. Donated material was coordinated for HABS documentation in 1978 by Lucy Pope Wheeler, HABS Writer/Editor.

Documentation of this property could not have been achieved without the cooperation of organizations and people concerned with the Commission's study--the Washington Club; Mrs. J. Leslie Robinson, Chairman of the Fine Arts Committee; and Mr. Wilson Duprey, of the New York Historical Society.